

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 025623  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07  
/049 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:CF  
APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:TAHALSTED  
-----106896 312210Z /75

P 312135Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 025623

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JANUARY 31 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT, WRITING IN JAN. 31 WASHINGTON POST, ASSERTED "TO BE USEFUL NEXT ARMS CONTROL ACCORD DOES NOT HAVE TO AFFORD ABSOLUTE PROTECTION TO THIS COUNTRY'S LAND-BASED MISSILE FORCE FOREVER. IT IS ENOUGH THAT IT CURTAILS PROJECTS FOR BIGGER AND BETTER WEAPONS NOW ON BOARDS, AND BEGINS SCALING-DOWN OF GROSSLY EXCESSIVE ARMORIES HELD BY BOTH SUPERPOWERS.... AN ARMS CONTROL TREATY DOES NOT HAVE TO AFFORD TOTAL SECURITY TO PASS MUSTER. SIGNIFICANT GAINS ARE MADE IF ONLY PRESENT MONITORING SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED, AND WAY IS OPENED TO CUT OFF PROJECTED WEAPONS DEVELOPMENTS. FAILURE TO REACH AN ACCORD WOULD YIELD AN UNCONSTRAINED ARMS RACE AND END OF JOINT MONITORING. IN OTHER WORDS, ANY AGREEMENT APT TO COME FROM UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 025623

PRESENT GENEVA TALKS IS FAR BETTER THAN NO AGREEMENT."

2. JOHN GOSHKO AND MARLIES SIMONS OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT MEXICO AND GUATEMALA ARE SEEKING TO BUY U.S. F-5 JET FIGHTERS WORTH TOTAL OF 180 MILLION DOLLARS. MEXICAN REQUEST TO PURCHASE 26 JETS IS REGARDED "AS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE MATTER BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BECAUSE

WASHINGTON'S ULTIMATE DECISION ON JET SALES -- WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE -- COULD DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO SOME HIGH-PRIORITY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES," POST WRITERS SAID. SALE OF SOPHISTICATED JETS TO MEXICO WOULD PUT "CONSIDERABLE TARNISH ON CREDIBILITY" OF PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED POLICY OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING U.S. FOREIGN MILITARY SALES, PARTICULARLY IN THIRD WORLD AREAS, THEY POINTED OUT. SALE TO MEXICO "ALSO WOULD TRIGGER ATTACKS FROM LIBERAL U.S. AND MEXICAN CRITICS, WHO VIEW IT BOTH AS SPUR TO LATIN AMERICAN MILITARISM AND STRATEGICALLY UNNECESSARY EXTRAVAGANCE THAT FINANCIALLY HARD-PRESSED MEXICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD," GOSHKO AND SIMONS SAID. ON OTHER HAND, U.S. OFFICIALS ARE KNOWN TO FEAR THAT REJECTING BID WOULD OFFEND MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND JEOPARDIZE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT CARTER HAS WORKED SO HARD TO ESTABLISH WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. AS FOR GUATEMALAN REQUEST, GOSHKO AND SIMONS CITED FEARS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN THAT ANY ADVANCED WEAPONS OBTAINED BY GUATEMALA MIGHT SOMEDAY BE USED IN AN ATTEMPT TO ANNEX NEIGHBORING BELIZE BY FORCE. ALSO CITED WAS POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN GUATEMALAN REQUEST AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF GENERALLY DENYING ARMS AID TO COUNTRIES WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

3. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION, IN MOVE WITH POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 025623

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, HAS BEGUN INFORMING CONGRESS OF ITS INTENTION TO SELL MOROCCO AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS FOR USE IN WESTERN SAHARA AGAINST ALGERIAN-BACKED GUERRILLAS. GWERTZMAN SAID IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON CAPITOL HILL, ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO DISCLOSED THAT, TO PERMIT MOROCCO TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT, U.S. CONTEMPLATES REWRITING 1960 MILITARY AGREEMENT THAT BARS MOROCCO FROM DEPLOYING AMERICAN ARMS BEYOND ITS BORDERS. REVISION WOULD PERMIT USE IN PART OF WESTERN SAHARA THAT WAS PLACED UNDER MOROCCAN MANDATE WHEN TERRITORY WAS PARTITIONED IN 1975 BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, GWERTZMAN SAID, NOTING "HOWEVER, U.S. WILL CONTINUE NOT TO RECOGNIZE MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY IN AREA." MOREOVER, MOROCCO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE EQUIPMENT IN SUPPORT OF 5,000 TROOPS IT RECENTLY DISPATCHED TO AID MAURITANIA IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST POLISARIO GUERRILLAS. OFFICIALS SAID THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR AMERICANS TO BE INVOLVED IN FIGHTING, GWERTZMAN ADDED.

4. RICHARD LYONS OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT CARTER TOLD JAN. 30 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE FAVORS "AT THIS MOMENT AN AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS TO PROHIBIT EARTH-ORBITING SATELLITES WITH ATOMIC RADIATION MATERIAL IN

THEM." VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE025623  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JPMPOPE:CF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780046-0878  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978012/aaaaaayo.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 183b09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ACDA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 feb 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3708873  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JANUARY 31 PRESS ROUNDUP  
**TAGS:** PARM, SOPN  
**To:** GENEVA USSALTTWO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/183b09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014